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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
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COUNTRY Bulgaria

SUBJECT Military Training of Bulgarian Youth

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. Bulgarian young people are being urged to join up in "Dimitrov Youth" at a very early age. When a young man or an adolescent has to go to work, he must also get his name on the list of his professional organization.
2. As soon as he has completed these two entries, the adolescent receives a visit from the secretary of the local organization of DOSO (Dobrovoina Organizatsia za Sadeitvie na Otbrana, i.e., Voluntary Organization for Collaboration in Defense.) The secretary, upon such occasions, has something like this to say: "I congratulate you on joining up with us and on your admittance to a state enterprise. Now you must prove your capacities, since you are in a position to carry out instructions of the Dimitrov organization. You are also able to fulfill the duties which fall upon you as a member of the DOSO."
3. The youngster has no choice. He accepts automatically. He then fills out an application form, with the help of the secretary of the local organization. Together with this application, he files the usual detailed autobiography, now in so much demand in almost all Communist organizations. The town committee of the DOSO then places the young man on its list.
4. He is now put through the following course of training:
 - a. Small arms firing instruction, on the target range of the enterprise in which he is employed.. During this training, he learns to field strip the Soviet "Vintovka" rifle. Each member of this training course receives a rifle of his own, though he has to turn it in when lessons are over. These rifles are deposited under guard in the quarters occupied by the local organization. This is now a customary practice in Bulgaria, to keep arms out of the people's hands, except when there is some hope of controlling their use.

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- b. The training period also includes instruction regarding cartridges and the effective range of rifles, other than the Vintovka.
 - c. Pistol firing. This instruction is given by about the same methods as are used in rifle instruction.
 - d. Defensive and offensive use of hand grenades.
 - e. Practical exercises, accompanying the theoretical training courses.
5. This instruction goes on for thirty weeks, at a rate of two lessons a week. When one course has been completed, every one in it gets first a theoretical examination, then a practical application test. The candidate then receives a diploma in the Kurs Narodn Streits (National Course for Riflemen). The diploma is granted to those who have been successful in rifle and pistol fire (five cartridges each), then in hand grenade throwing. The hand grenade throw is controlled by a small apparatus. The student being tested is controlled as to time, aim, and distance. His grenade must pass through a circle 25 cm in diameter at a distance of thirty to forty meters and must fall at least five meters beyond. This examination is held before a professor, the instructor, and an officer of DOSO, who note down the results.
6. The diploma distinguishes three classes, according to excellence. Six months later, the young man receives a round insignia with a white base, on which are the red letters "DOSO". These youthful members of DOSO are those who, in time of need, will provide soldiers for the Darjavna Sigurnost and for the Interior Army. If called up for such service, they will receive special training of greater severity.

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